

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 NEAE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01  
HA-05 AID-05 CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06 OPR-02 USSS-00  
CA-01 A-01 SCS-06 OMB-01 SY-05 /103 W  
-----079652 191351Z /45

O R 191225Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7473  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 KABUL 3019

HONG KONG: FOR RSS

CINCPAC: FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: ASEC, PINS, US, AF  
SUBJECT: MURDER OF AFGHAN COMMUNIST LEADER RESULTS IN ANTI-  
AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION AT KABUL

1. SUMMARY: THE ASSASSINATION OF A PROMINENT AFGHAN  
COMMUNIST LEADER TOUCHED OFF AN ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION  
IN FRONT OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AT KABUL. THE INCIDENT  
REVEALED FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
REPUBLIC IN 1973 THE SIZABLE, WELL-ORGANIZED NATURE OF THE  
COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. END OF SUMMARY.

2. AT NOONTIME, APRIL 19, A WELL-ORGANIZED PARADE OF ALMOST  
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FIFTEEN THOUSAND AFGHAN YOUTHS PASSED BY THE AMERICAN  
EMBASSY AT KABUL, CARRYING RED FLAGS AND RED POMPOMS, WAVING  
FISTS AT THE EMBASSY IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNIST SALUTE,  
DEMONSTRATING INTENSE ANTI-AMERICAN HOSTILITY, AND SHOUTING  
ANTI-AMERICAN SOLGANS (E.G., "CIA, CIA; DEATH, DEATH\*"  
AND "DEATH TO THE CIA"). THE MARCH WAS APPARENTLY PERMITTED  
BY THE AFGHAN AUTHORITIES. NO POLICE, OTHER THAN THE USUAL

COMPLEMENT GUARDING THE EMBASSY'S GATE, WERE IN EVIDENCE. THE INCIDENT WHICH TOUCHED OFF THE RARE POLITICAL DISPLAY WAS THE FATAL SHOOTING ON THE EVENING OF APRIL 17 OF MIR AKBAR KHAIBAR, A PROMINENT AFGHAN COMMUNIST LEADER. THE CROWD WAS CARRYING KHAIBAR'S BODY TO HIS FURNERAL SERVICES AT THE PUL-I-KHESHTI MOSQUE, AND TO HIS FINAL BURIAL IN A PUBLIC CEMETARY.

3. KHAIBAR, A PUSHTUN WHO WAS APPROXIMATELY 62, HAD BEEN THE FOUNDER AND "GODFATHER" OF THE PRO-COMMUNIST "PARCHAM" ("BANNER") PARTY DURING THE MONARCHIAL PERIOD IN 1965, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS CHIEF OF POLICE IN PAKTIA PROVINCE. HE ALSO BECAME THE CHIEF EDITOR OF THE PARTY'S NEWSPAPER, AND WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN THE REAL INTELLECTUAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL FORCE BEHIND THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN AFGHANISTAN. KHAIBAR WAS OFFICIALLY THE NUMBER TWO MAN OF THE PARCHAM CENTRAL COMMITTEE UNTIL THAT PARTY REUNITED WITH THE MOSCOW-INFLUENCED "KHALQ" ("MASSES") PARTY IN 1977. HE IS BELIEVED TO HAVE THEN BECOME THE NUMBER THREE MAN IN THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE NEW PARTY, THE "KHALQ," WHICH IS KNOWN TO BE PRO-MOSCOW (ALTHOUGH THE SOVIETS HAVE NEVER OPENLY ACKNOWLEDGED THIS LINKAGE, PERHAPS IN DEFERENCE TO THE SENSITIVITIES OF PRESIDENT MOHAMMAD DAOUD). THE "KHALQ" IS NOT A LEGAL PARTY, BUT ITS OPERATIONS ARE OBVIOUSLY TOLERATED BY THE REGIME.

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4. KHAIBAR WAS SHOT AT AROUND 9:00 P.M. ON APRIL 17. BY THE FOLLOWING AFTERNOON THERE WAS A WELL-ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATION, WITH RED BENNERS AND CHANTED SLOGANS, IN THE SOVIET-CONSTRUCTED MIKRORAYON HOUSING DISTRICT NEAR THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WHERE HE HAD LIVED. COMMENT: ALMOST ALL OF THE DEMONSTRATORS WHO PASSED THE EMBASSY WERE WEARING WESTERN CLOTHING AND APPEARED TO BE OF SECONDARY SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY AGE. A LARGE PROPORTION WERE FEMALES. END OF COMMENT.

5. BABRAK KARMAL, THE NUMBER TWO "KHALQ" PARTY LEADER, WAS PERMITTED TO DELIVER A EULOGY TO THE SLAIN COMMUNIST LEADER ON GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED KABUL RADIO THE EVENING OF APRIL 18. COMMENT: THE REGIME MAY HAVE PERMITTED THIS ACCESS TO THE USUALLY RIGIDLY-CONTROLLED AIRWAVES IN ORDER TO DISTANCE ITSELF FROM THE KILLING -- AND IN A HOPE THAT IT MIGHT DEFUSE THE TENSION. END OF COMMENT.

6. ALTHOUGH NO DAMAGE WAS DONE TO THE EMBASSY DURING THIS NOON'S DEMONSTRATION, WE MUST BE ALERT TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS ANTI-AMERICAN FEELING MIGHT BE TRANSLATED INTO VIOLENCE AFTER THE FUNERAL OR THE "FATEHA" MEMORIAL SERVICE ON APRIL 20. THE EMBASSY, WHICH HAS BEEN UNDER A PRO-PLO

TERRORIST ALERT SINCE THE LAST WEEK OF MARCH, WILL BE TAKING  
APPROPRIATE SECURITY PRECAUTIONS.

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7. COMMENT: MANY OBSERVERS THINK THAT KHAIBAR MIGHT HAVE  
BEEN ASSASSINATED BY THE RIGHT-WING "IKHWAN-I-MUSLIMIN"  
("MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD"), WHICH REPORTEDLY KILLED THREE OR  
FOUR "LEFTISTS" IN AFGHANISTAN DURING THE PAST HALF YEAR.  
THE GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN (GOA) PROBABLY WOULD NOT BE  
LOATH TO PIN THIS CRIME ON THAT ORGANIZATION AS WELL. THE  
DAOUBQREGIME, WHICH FREQUENTLY COMPLAINS ABOUT "RIGHTIST"  
OPPOSITIONISM, BLAMED SUCH ELEMENTS FOR LAST NOVEMBER'S  
ASSASSINATION OF PLANNING MINISTER KHURRAM. UNTIL NOW, WE HAVE  
SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT THE REGIME IS BEING BLAMED FOR THIS  
KILLING. WE THINK IT NOTEWORTHY THAT THE GOA HAS PERMITTED AN  
ILLEGAL PARTY ACCESS TO ITS OFFICIAL RADIO AND ALLOWED IT TO  
FLEX ITS MUSCLES IN PUBLIC. (DAOUD'S OFFICIAL PARTY OF THE  
NATIONAL REVOLUTION ONLY HAS 52 MEMBERS, ACCORDING TO OUR  
MOST RECENT INTELLIGENCE REPORTS).

8. WHAT IS MOST SIGNIFICANT, HOWEVER, IS THE SURFACING OF  
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MASSIVE, HIGHLY ORGANIZED LEFTIST POWER IN KABUL. WE HAD LONG HEARD REPORTS THAT THE "KHALQ" WAS WELL-DISCIPLINED AND WELL-ORGANIZED, BUT WE QUITE FRANKLY DID NOT EXPECT THEM TO BE ABLE TO MOUNT A DEMONSTRATION OF THIS SIZE. IT WAS A SOBERING SIGHT TO SEE THOUSANDS OF AFGHAN YOUTH MARCHING I PERFECT PLATOON FORMATION (MARCHING BETTER, IN FACT, THAN THE AFGHAN ARMY DOES AT THE ANNUAL JESHYN PARADE) UNDER CLOSE COMMUNIST DISCIPLINE. WE WILL BE ANALYZING THIS DEVELOPMENT IN FUTURE MESSAGES.  
ELIOT

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014